

General Motors Building
3044 West Grand Boulevard
Detroit
Wayne County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-20

HABS
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87-DETRO,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Michigan	COUNTY Wayne	TOWN OR VICINITY Detroit
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) General Motors Building		HABS NO. MI-20
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 3044 West Grand Boulevard		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1919-1923	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Albert Kahn	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The General Motors Building was built as the headquarters of the General Motors Company during the period when the company, under the leadership of Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., became the leading automobile manufacturer in the United States.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Annex is reinforced concrete sheathed in limestone; main structure is steel frame faced with Bedford limestone.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 15 stories, occupying city block; 302'x504' consisting of elongated central block with eight wings and a 5-story, hip-roofed annex connected at rear.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Exterior is divided into base, body, and top. Base features centrally located entrance loggia with triple arches and groined vault. Continuous arcades on front and sides of building frame display windows. Stories 3-13 form body of building. Vertical piers faced with Bedford limestone rise uninterrupted from base to top of 12th floor where there are a stone course and carved corner blocks. Crown (floors 14-15) has marble Corinthian columns which support a massive stone entablature capped with a dentiled cornice.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Lobby area features vaulted ceilings that are decorated in bright colors and gold leaf. It is faced with tavernelle marble and has floors covered with gray Tennessee marble. Lobbies and corridors on floors 2-15 are faced with white Alabama marble and have floors of gray Tennessee marble.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Wooden window sashes replaced with metal sashes. Some interior area modernized.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good condition; office building with small shops on first floor		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The General Motors Building is a National Historic Landmark.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register nomination, March 1977		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Alan Appel, Trizec New Center Development Associates	DATE September 1981	